

Happiness Pony

happinesspony.com

The arc of the universe is long, but it bends towards Worcester.

June 2012



This Truth Never Fails

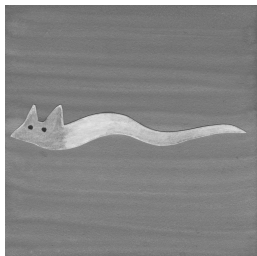
A Zen Memoir
in Four Seasons
by David Rynick
Book launch party June 11
7:00-8:30 pm
Boundless Way Temple
1030 Pleasant St, Worcester
amzn.to/JZQ9my
davidrynick.com

Death at the Masquerade
Inside, a young couple discover a chilling atmosphere. Diabolical laughter rings through the dark. The hallways are filled with death and floating hands. Death seems to stalk them around every turn. Truly at the mercy of hungry fiends. Have their ghoulish hosts made a "grave" mistake? You pick up the phone and the stranger's screams put you over the edge. (Bruce "Snow Ghost" Russell)

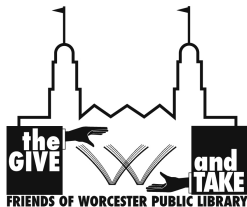


OLDE MOON

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In Chile, Mapuche mythology describes a dangerous fox-snake called the *gurucilu*. The creature creates whirlpools, making it dangerous to cross rivers. (Cindy Brennan)



At Union Station
Give a book - Take a book



True Action Tales of Worcester: Thomas Wentworth Higginson

For one thing only I blush, that a fugitive has ever fled from here to Canada. Let it not happen again, I charge you, if you are what you think you are. No longer conceal fugitives and help them on, but show them and defend them. Let the Underground Railroad stop here! Say to the South, that Worcester, though a part of the Republic, shall be as free as if ruled by a Queen! Hear, O Richmond! and give ear, O Carolina! henceforth Worcester is Canada to the slave! And what will Worcester be to the kidnapper? I dare not tell; and I fear that the poor sinner himself, if once recognized in our streets, would scarcely get back to tell the tale.

Thomas Wentworth Higginson, in his sermon
"Massachusetts in Mourning," June 4, 1854

Just over a week before giving this sermon, Rev. Thomas Wentworth Higginson led an unsuccessful armed assault on the Boston Court House in an attempt to free Anthony Burns, an escaped slave set to be returned to his masters in the South. One US marshal was mortally wounded in the attack and Higginson took a saber slash to the chin.

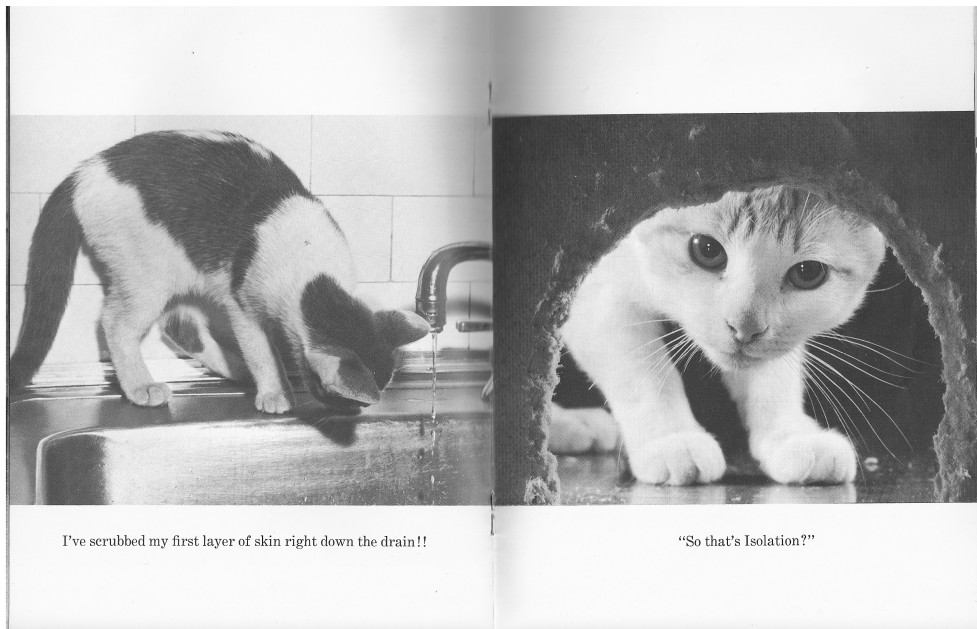
When federal marshal Asa Butman, the man to put Burns in irons, came to Worcester to investigate Higginson's role in the attack, a mob formed in protest. Butman barely escaped from Worcester with his life, and then only because Higginson himself shielded Butman from the blows of the mob and Butman promised never to return to Worcester again.

Thomas Wentworth Higginson was an Army colonel, pastor of Worcester's Free Church, a prolific author, a feminist, and friend and supporter to Emily Dickinson. (Written by Joe Scully. Illustrated by Ivy Powers. For an excellent contemporary account of Butman's escape from Worcester, the editors recommend the October 31, 1854 Massachusetts Spy.)

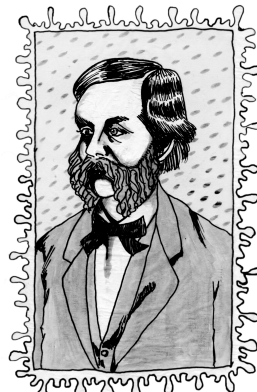
I Have Discovered the Origin of Lolcats

BY SHANE CAPRA

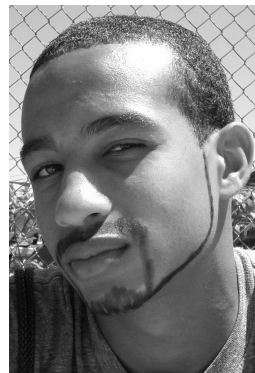
Reproduced below is a spread from the 1966 Ethicon *Cat-A-Log*. It begins and ends with ads for surgical equipment; on the inside pages are 23 cat (and dog) photos with goofy/creepy captions. While captioned cat pictures date back to at least the 1870s, Ethicon's catalog, which began in 1950, pioneered the relentless "photo-after-photo-after-photo" assault of captioned pix we associate with the modern lolcat phenomenon. (ghostwritten by Mike Benedetti)



Beards of Worcester



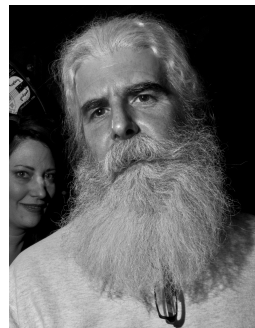
Thomas Wentworth Higginson



Tyrae Sims



Sarah Assefa



Bob Largess

Photo by Louie Despres

CLASSIFIED ADS

BOOKS, YIDDISH+ENGLISH

Not In The Same Breath by Zackary Sholem Berger: 1/3 Yiddish, 1/3 English, 2/3 Pretty Pictures. bit.ly/NITSBAmaazon

Cat In The Hat and Curious George in Yiddish. yiddishcat.com



Exotic Curiosities
Worcester, MA
scallywagceramics.com



Thomas Wentworth Higginson was one of Emily Dickinson's greatest correspondents, and saw to the editing and publishing of her work after her death.



POCKET DOORBELL
It is in the Apple App Store and will make your phone a contemporary doorbell. CNET called it "Dumb, yes, but kind of cool, too."

Thomas Wentworth Higginson was colonel of the first regiment of freed slaves during the Civil War.

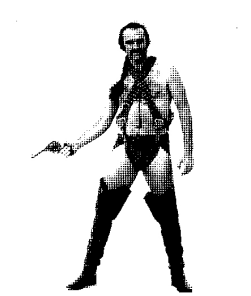
"Mothers News"
IT IS A
NEWSPAPER.
mothersnews.net

Thomas Wentworth Higginson helped convene the national Women's Rights Convention in Worcester, was a founder of the American Women's Suffrage Association, and worked tirelessly for women's education.



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After the death of his wife, Thomas Wentworth Higginson stayed for a short time with Charles Darwin.



Movie Review: Zardoz
"The gun is good. The penis is evil." It's been awhile since I've seen *Zardoz*, and while any other messages the movie may have contained have been forgotten, that one remains. No doubt the gun is good. This movie is full of guns and enough violence to satisfy most action movie fans out there. But this movie also contains a lot of thinly-veiled penis beneath Sean Connery's tight red thong. If you're a fan of bizarre sci-fi movies and famous actors disgracing themselves, then the gun is good, the penis is good, and *Zardoz* is good. (Ben Cummings)

Parsley Revisited

June is as good a time as any for new resolutions. Especially as regards parsley—one of the first herbs to poke through the Spring ground, a symbol of new beginnings.

Pick a sprig. Stick it behind for that boost of energy you need to quit a crummy job, walk away from jerks in your life, and to stop singing that same song over and over in your head.

The lore and legend of parsley runs deep. In Greek mythology, parsley symbolized impending death, as it sprang from the blood of infant Ophletes after he was killed by a serpent. For years, Greeks placed parsley on graves, until it eventually came to represent strength. The Romans theorized parsley made their horses faster and thus fed them the curly leaves. Romans paired the herb with sipping wine, certain it staved off drunkenness. Then, medieval times. Along came associations with the Devil. Strict terms and conditions for parsley's success applied in this age. The seeds had to travel to the Devil and back seven times, then be sown only on Good Friday, only with a full moon rising, and only in households with a woman master. And last, let us not forget Hildegard of Bingen, the mystic, visionary, composer, and writer. Hildegard performed miracle cures with her tonic of parsley, wine, and vinegar. Cheers!

Today, you can easily find two kinds of parsley in garden beds, markets, the wilds of Sardinia, and at farmstands. Flat-leaved (Italian) parsley is blue-green in color, has a more intense flavor, and stands up well to heat. The curly-leaved variety keeps better and can be chopped and frozen with exceptional results. So much more than a pretty garnish, **parsley should be consumed whenever possible**. When selecting parsley, look for leaves showing no signs of wilting. Stick the sprigs in water and keep in a cool, shady corner of your kitchen. Use within three days.

As mentioned in our last issue, parsley has myriad benefits. Packed with Vitamin C and Iron, it adds essential vitamins and minerals to your diet. Its chlorophyll content is uncanny, so try parsley for halitosis. Like salt, this herb enhances the flavor of other seasonings and does wonders in any soup, stew, or sauce. Other health gains of parsley? Oh, it's just your average antispasmodic, carminative, diuretic, emmenagogue, expectorant, oxygen metabolism facilitator, blood purifier, bowel and adrenal stimulator, enhancer of the sexual system, and remover of kidney stones and gallstones. (Patricia Kirkpatrick)

Meditations on Yellow Bags

According to Worcester's 2013 city budget, our cost for refuse disposal is budgeted at \$1,677,104, associated natural gas and fuel is budgeted at \$31,412, and recycling at \$2,045,509. That's a total of \$3,754,025.

To throw out trash in Worcester, you must of course use official yellow city trash bags¹. The City estimates it will make \$3.2 million dollars selling city bags in 2013. That means that trash bag fees cover all but \$550,000 or so of the cost of trash removal (about 85%). If we factor in the cost of the bags (\$400,000²), it's more like 77%³.

In 2009, "Worcester collect[ed] trash and recycling from dwellings of six units or less, or about 52,000 households." Assuming the number of households is relatively stable, the average household uses 58 bags a year.

If the average household is buying 58 trash bags, and the average household buys only large trash bags, then trash for the year costs approximately \$87, or \$1.67 a week.

How much trash is expected to be hauled away in FY2013? 21,842 tons, or about 0.42 tons a household⁴.

If we're recycling 31% of our trash at curbside, then I estimate that we'll be recycling about 9,822 tons in FY2013, at a cost of \$208.25 a ton (or \$39/household/year).

I'd love to hear your questions or comments; you can contact me via editor@happinesspony.com. I have questions of my own. Why is it our recycling costs are on the high side? What would happen budget-wise if our recycling rate went up? Finally, twenty years ago, even ten years ago, we were considered a model community of pay-as-you-throw and recycling. What are the next steps we need to take if we want to continue to lead the way in waste removal? (Nicole Apostola)

City Council Flashback:
Hot Dog Vendor Crackdown
On August 8, 2008, the Worcester City Council voted for various new restrictions on hawkers/peddlers and street vendors, after a couple restaurants complained that hot dog vendors were taking their business (!). Those voting in favor included now-Mayor Joe Petty, then-Mayor Konnie Lukes, Bill Eddy, and Phil Palmieri. Those opposed included Mike Germain, Rick Rushton, and Kate Toomey. (Mike Benedetti)

WooDaddy Waffles

MAKE WAFFLES

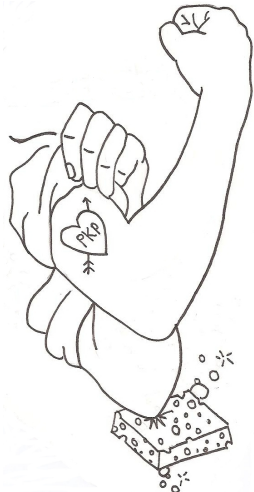
HOT WAR

Worcester's Best Brunch
Sat & Sun 11-2

Inside Moynihan's
897 Main Street
Worcester

TV13
W C C A

Cable access for
Worcester on channel 13.
wccatv.com



ELBOW GREASE
Green Cleaning & Organization
Patricia Kirkpatrick
508.353.1334
elbowgrease64@gmail.com

1. City bags cost \$7.50 per pack, either 5 large bags or 10 small ones. The "pay as you throw" system was instituted November 29, 1993.
2. From the budget: "The contracted small and large bag price is \$0.158 per large bags and \$0.081 for small bags. The estimated number of bags to be sold in Fiscal 2013 is approximately 3.05 million bags."
3. So, if we wanted to fully fund the trash collection with the bag fee, we'd need to raise the fee to about \$2 for large bags and about \$1 for small bags.
4. The tipping (landfill) fee for FY2013 will be increasing to \$74.29/ton.

HAPPINESS PONY Income Statement May 2012	
Revenue	
Donations from editors	\$76.56
Ad sales	\$0.00
Other donations	\$0.00
Expenses	
500 copies	\$76.50
Test copies	\$0.06
Net Income	\$0.00
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